



OUNDLÉ

School

Academic Scholarship 2014

Preliminary Examination

English

Time Allowed: One hour

Please write you answers on lined paper

Section A.

Across the Estuary

The fog floats in with the tide and lies on the mosses,
Branching up the channels like the veins on an old man's hand.
The world of field and farm, the woods and the embankment,
Are blurred away like figures on a slate;
Here, under the canvas of the fog, 5
Is only sand, and the dead, purple turf,
And gulleys in the mud where now the water
Thrusts flabby fingers. The wild geese
Feed beneath the mist, grey and still as sheep,
And cormorants¹ curl black question-marks 10
Above the threshold of the sea.

Here is the track:

The ruts of cartwheels filled with water, the dark
Brog of broom². Unseen, a curlew³ calls –
A shadow slipping through the rippling mist;
Byzantine domes of foam sail up the gutters. 15
But now – where is the track? Where are the ruts? The broom
Skulks back into the dark, and every footstep,
Dug deep in mud, draws water through the heels,
Each step goes wrong. Here, forward – deep, the sand
Shifts under foot like scree. Backward- deeper. 20
Stand still then – squids of sand
Wrap suckers round my feet. The tide
Tops the rim of the gulleys, and the mist
Tightens its cold, wet nets about my throat.

¹ Cormorant – a large waterbird, often found on estuaries

² Broom – a shrub

³ Curlew – a wading bird

1. From looking at lines 1-11, briefly and in your own words, explain the setting of the poem. Do not write more than 3 sentences. (3 marks)
- 2 a) In what ways can the movement of the fog be “like the veins on an old man’s hand”? (Line 2) (2 marks)
- 2 b) How successful do you find this simile? Explain your answer fully. (3 marks)
3. Choose two more similes or metaphors from the first 10 lines and explain why you think the author has used them. (4 marks)
4. Comment on the way in which the curlew is described in line 14. (3 marks)
5. Considering the poem as a whole, explain how the writer presents the setting. Look to use quotations to support your ideas. In the course of your answer, you may wish to consider:
 - the imagery the poet uses.
 - the verbs and other words you find interesting
 - what the poet chooses to describe
 - the ending of the poem

(10 marks)

Section B.

Choose **one** of the following tasks. You may wish to give a balanced response to the task, exploring more than one view, or you may wish to argue and persuade in a more opinionated manner.

Marks are available for the accuracy and sophistication of your expression as well as your ideas and the structure of your piece.

1. "Authors, film makers and the writers of computer games have a moral obligation to protect children from presentations of violent and unpleasant scenarios and the worst of human nature." To what extent do you agree with this view?
2. "The best use of your free time is to read a book." To what extent do you agree with this view?
3. "It is a dog-eat-dog world. The most important thing you must do in life is look after yourself." To what extent do you agree with this view?
4. "There are no inventions left to be discovered. We have all we need" To what extent do you agree with these statements?
5. "Lessons are important but the most important things pupils learn at school are not experienced in the classroom." To what extent do you agree with this view?

(25 marks)